

WE CLAIM:

1. A retaining spool for a PC board for retaining a length of fiber optic cable comprising:

- 5 a body portion, the body portion including a channel formed about the periphery thereof for receiving the fiber optic cable in an arc having a radius greater than a minimum bend radius of the fiber optic cable; and
- a plurality of legs extending from the body portion, each of the legs adapted to be received in an opening formed in the PC board.

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2. The retaining spool of claim 1 wherein the body portion includes a center portion and upper and lower flange portions.

15 3. The retaining spool of claim 2 wherein the center portion is cylindrical.

4. The retaining spool of claim 2 wherein the upper and lower flange portions define the channel with the center portion.

20 5. The retaining spool of claim 2 where the body portion includes a plurality of posts formed on the center portion, the posts extending in a generally axial direction, the posts being inserted into corresponding openings formed in the upper and lower flange portions for positioning the flange portions on the center portion.

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6. The retaining spool of claim 2 wherein at least one of the lower and upper flange portions includes at least one tab positioned to close the channel for retaining the fiber optic cable therein.

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15. The retaining spool of claim 1 wherein the retaining spool is of a resilient material.

16. The retaining spool of claim 15 wherein the resilient material is one of metal and plastic.

17. A PC board and retaining spool assembly for retaining a length of fiber optic cable thereto, comprising:

a PC board including a plurality of mounting openings;

a retaining spool, the retaining spool including a body portion defining a channel thereabout and a plurality of spaced legs attached to the body portion, the legs being positioned in the mounting openings to secure the retaining spool to the PC board; and

a length of optic cable retained in the channel of the retaining spool.

18. A method of operation of a retention spool adapted to be mounted directly to a PC board for retaining a length of fiber optic cable thereto, comprising:

providing a channel about the periphery of the retention spool, the channel having a radius greater than a minimum bend radius of the fiber optic cable;

providing a plurality of openings through the PC board in a spaced apart configuration;

applying pressure to a plurality of legs on the retention spool;

inserting each the leg into a corresponding one of the plurality of openings on the PC board;

releasing pressure from the plurality of legs to retain the retention spool to the PC board;

inserting the length of fiber optic cable into the channel in the retention spool; and

retaining the length of fiber optic cable to the retention spool.

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19. The method of claim 18 wherein retaining the length of fiber optic cable to the retention spool includes closing a tab member of the retention spool to close the channel.

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